

# CURIOUS MEN, THINGS AND EVENTS OF THE PAST



THE DUDE MONKEY

THE Sunday Journal prints another series of pictures of odd, remarkable and amusing people, occurrences and things that have come into public notice the past week. One is the "dude" of the monkey world, the black Saki from South America.

The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences has one. The hair on his head is thick and black and is parted perfectly and naturally in the middle. Under his chin there is a luxuriant growth of whiskers, of a style that were years ago common with elderly men, which are known as Galways. The tail is very bushy and about a foot long. The Saki is about two feet tall. Its scientific name is *Simia satana*.

His habitat is the lower Amazon, but the class is very rare. He lives in the most retired parts of the forest where the ground is not inundated. He is very dainty and feeds on fruits and nuts entirely. Another peculiarity of the Saki is that he drinks freely of water, always bending down on his hands and putting his mouth to the surface of the water. His voice is a rich and chirping whistle, which becomes shrill and loud when the animal is angry. A fine specimen of the Saki is in the extensive collection of Simians at the Museum of Natural History of New York.

At a ranch in San Bernardino County, Cal., a magnificent specimen of the California vulture has just been taken alive. It is the largest one ever captured. The California vulture is nearly extinct, owing to the increasing war waged upon them by settlers. From the crown of its ferocious-looking, red-mottled head to its strong, ruddy talons it measures six feet. Its plucky cap is three inches shorter in his cowl-like boots. The bird weighs one hundred pounds. That, however, is a very fair fighting weight to carry through the rarified upper air of California, and in order to accomplish the daily flight through space the bird is provided with wings that have a spread of twelve feet. Ornithologists who have examined this creature say that it is but a youngster. Yet it is strong enough to kill a cow. It had accomplished this feat, and had dined not wisely but too well when Mr. Richard Gird happened along. Flap its giant wings it might, the vulture was unable to raise the cow, and in its humiliating predicament it was lassoed and dragged ponderously but helplessly to Mr. Gird's stable.

A few days ago a farmer near the historic battlefield of Seven Pines, in Virginia, while chopping down a giant tree which had died and only encumbered the earth, made a gruesome discovery of a crumbling skeleton in the hollow base of the tree. The leather peak of a cap, a handful of tarnished buttons, the mouldering remains of a belt and a scabbard, to which hung the brass belt fastening bearing the name of the "Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers," told the story of a soldier's strange death. Wounded, perhaps, and unable to flee further, some unknown member of this famous Irish regiment crept into the hollow of the still living tree, and there died from loss of blood or suffocation, unable to extricate himself. As years rolled by and the tree still grew, the opening through which he had crawled into what was to prove his sepulchre gradually grew smaller, as such holes will, until it almost closed, and kept its ghastly secret for more than thirty years.

These were waiting by which the bones of the dead warrior could be identified. They were tenderly gathered up and sent to the National Cemetery at Washington, D. C., for honorable interment.

In the twentieth century it will be but necessary to touch the button and electricity will do the rest. All cooking will be done by the subtle force, and dishes and clothes will be washed by it. All this has been realized now, but the expense is still great. Incandescent lamps are now provided with a number of resistances and a duplex switch, so that at least six degrees of illumination can be utilized.

In the bathrooms of several wealthy New Yorkers are arranged electric baths. First, there is a soft, non-conducting base into which the body of the bather sinks. Upon this base is laid a flexible sheet made of soft, pliable, closely woven wire. This sheet is one of the conductors of an electric circuit. Over the bather is laid a similar sheet. When the bather is laid between the sheets, the whole being covered with a linen cloth, the connection is made and the current passes gently through every portion of the body, sending the blood bounding through the veins in a most refreshing manner.

In bedrooms you can have electrically heated mattresses. Flexible electric resistance wires embedded in asbestos are placed in the mattress proper. The current of heat in the mattress is controlled by a switch. Electric blankets and electrically heated towels are also made for use in the sick room, and rooms can be heated by means of electric rugs.



AROUND THE WORLD BY DOG TEAM

A patented "goat" is the latest patented curiosity. The inventors are Edward and Ulysses S. de Moulon, of Greenville, Ill. The invention will be hailed by all secret society members, who are sometimes at a loss as to how to give the candidate a sufficiently exciting equestrian experience on the lodge "William G." The device is patented under the name of "initiation apparatus for secret societies." In general appearance it is a simple, harmless little carpet covered and fringed platform about three feet square. The possibilities that lurk in that little box are but dimly set forth in the description given by the inventors.

The platform is so arranged that when the candidate steps upon it he may be suddenly precipitated to the bottom by the falling away of the flooring. As he will be blindfolded, the effect upon him will be sufficiently terrifying for the purpose. An alarm is set off by the falling of the platform, and this is intended further to add to his general unhappy condition. There are other devices for ringing bells, discharging cartridges, and "tipping" or "precipitating" the candidate.

F. D. Kennedy, of Grand Forks, N. D., is getting ready for a trip around the world under novel circumstances. He will be accompanied by a friend, W. H. Wittmore, and they will start about April 10. The journey will be made in a neat and serviceable cart, with an aluminum bag and pneumatic tires, which

will be drawn by four pairs of Newfoundland dogs, weighing each from 100 to 200 pounds. The start will be made from North Fork in a sleigh, which will be used wherever possible, after which the wagon will be brought into service. The route will be direct to New York, by the most practicable route. Here a steamer will be taken to England.

No effort will be made to make a time record. The principal cities of Europe will be visited, and from Russia the caravan route through China will be taken to the Pacific. Japan will then be explored, and men and dogs will sail from Yokohama to Hawaii, and thence to San Francisco.

"A trap for catching human souls" is one of the curiosities in the British Museum. It is of no more supernatural material than plaited cocoanut fibre, with a manilla string. There are six double loops, and the whole measures forty-one inches in length. The trap comes from the Tanager Islands, in the Indian Ocean, where they range in length up to twenty-eight feet, having loops of different sizes, intended variously for adults and children, the aristocracy and the common people. They are arranged with the loops in a spectacle form.

Should a native offend one of the priesthood, or "sacred men," or should he fall dangerously ill, a soul trap is suspended at night from a laurel tree near the offender's or the invalid's bungalow. A priest watches near the trap, and if an insect or small bird flies through one of the loops it is announced that the soul of the culprit is in captivity, having assumed the form that is seen to have passed through the trap. It is soon spread about that John Doe or Sallie Roe had lost her poor soul. All the relatives then join in lamentations, and come forward to the sacred men and intercede for their unhappy relative, offering valuable presents for the release of the imprisoned souls.

A man as lazy as he is ingenious has invented and patented a device for automatically feeding his horse. He does it through an ordinary alarm clock. At 5 o'clock in the morning the alarm attachment for that hour is set. The power that is generally utilized to ring the bell is applied to a wire connected with a sliding gate to the oat bin. This is raised by the clock movement, and held suspended for a given number of seconds while the grain runs through a sluice to the manger. Then it is closed, and the hostler sleeps on, satisfied that his beast is not suffering from hunger.

Owners of the Detroit surface roads think that they have secured a cash box that cannot be plundered. The machine is a self-registering slot machine suspended by a chain from the unfortunate's neck. The passenger drops his nickel into the slot. Bad money will not go in but falls to the bottom and jingles a little bell. There is a special slot for corbeteils. Each car has a different lock, and the keys are kept by the cashier at the end of the route. Each conductor carries also a change bar, made upon the plan of the dime jacket bank.

The cow that can trot faster than any other cow on earth, like the horse that can trot faster than any other of the two-minute candidates, is owned in the West.

Iowa claims the trotting horse Alix, with a record of 2:03 1/4 for a mile, but the cow who has done a half mile in 1:31 1/4, which is a 3:03 gait, has to bear her honors nameless. O. H. Harris, of Jackson, Mich., the owner, has never been able to decide upon a name that does justice to the big Durham animal. The speed of the cow was first noted when the evening call for supper was made. "Bossy," at the other end of a pasture, generally beat her mates, another cow and a horse, to the fold.

Arthur Harris, the son who generally milked her, has an eye for speed in animals. He likes to drive a fast trotter, and one day he thought he'd try Bossy just to see how fast she could go. So he measured off the length of the pasture and borrowed a couple of stop watches. At the beginning of the pasture run his brother Ralph "clocked" her at the start, and he timed her at the finish. The distance was 308 feet short of a quarter of a mile, and she made it at a 2:58 gait. Bossy is very fat, and her round back was a temptation for a cow-back ride. One afternoon one of the boys jumped astride of Bossy's fat back, and away she went. He didn't stay on long. She kicked



CONDUCTOR CASH REGISTER



TROTTERING COW

her heels in the air and the rider went off a-kiting. So the saddle was taken out of the harness room and Bossy was put in a stable. The saddle was strapped around her fat back, and one of the boys mounted her. After a few days Bossy got so she didn't mind the unusual burden, and by degrees was trained so that she was as gentle a saddle-cow as you'd find in a week's travel. They took her to the county fair, and here it was that she made her half mile under saddle in 1:31 1/4. She was the attraction of the day. But the rude treatment caused her to cease giving milk. Now she shines on a single glory, that of being the fastest cow trotter in the world.

A concern has come into New York and almost solved the problem of garbage cremation, by introducing a device that renders the housekeeper independent of the city collection. It is a perforated cylinder that is filled with drained refuse, inserted into the stove or range pipe, where the contents dry, without smell escaping, and are converted into a sort of charcoal that burns nicely.



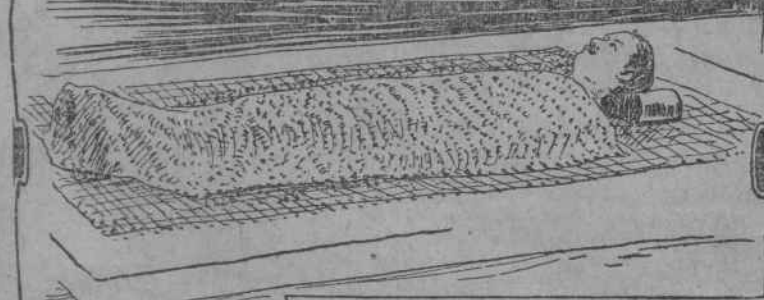
GARBAGE CREMATOR



AN EDUCATED SHRIMP



SKELETON SOLDIER



ELECTRIC BATH



GIANT VULTURE



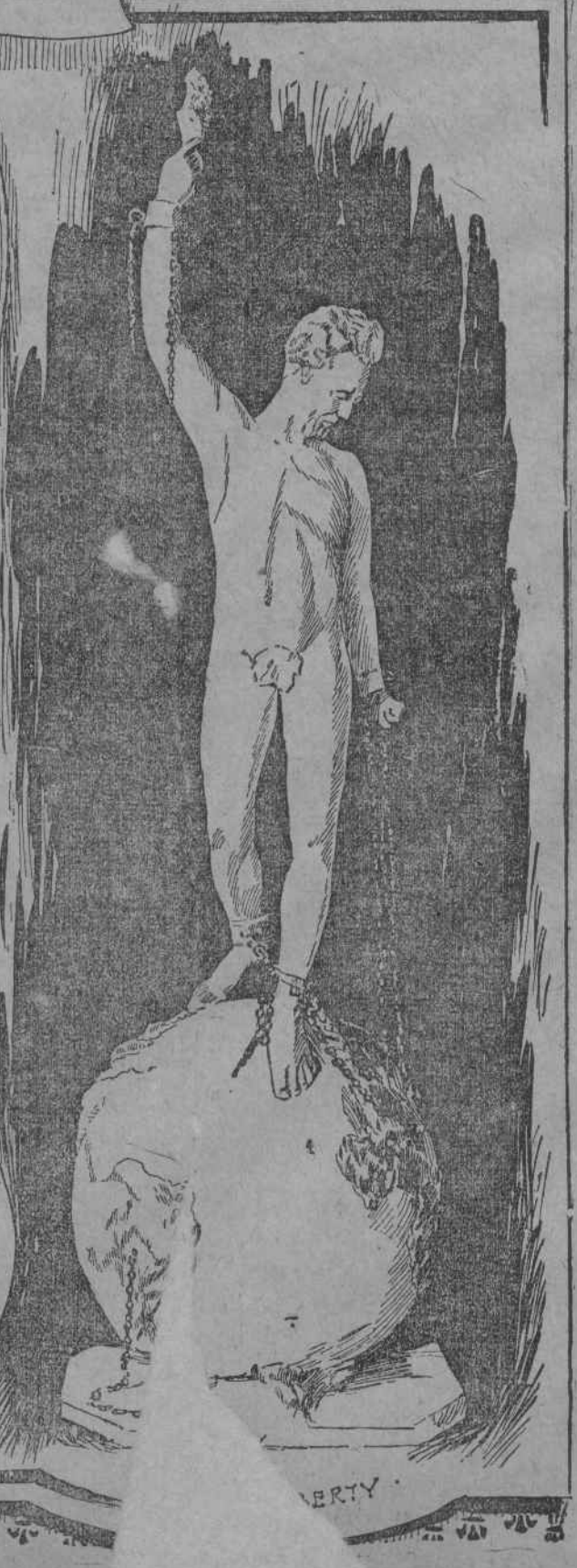
ELECTRIC BATH



ALARM CLOCK HORSE FEEDER



A PATENT GOAT



ELECTRIC BATH